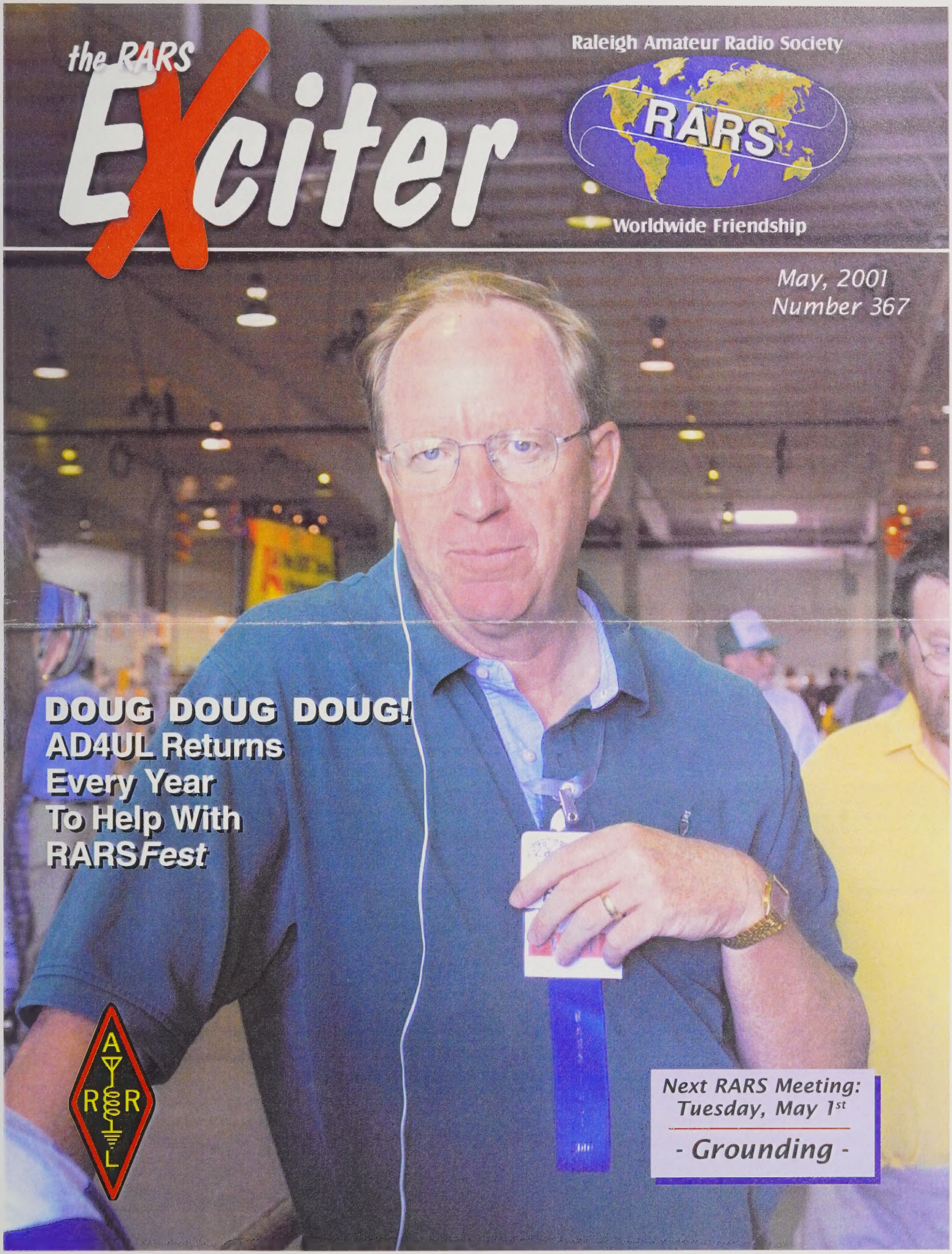
the RARS
Exciter

Raleigh Amateur Radio Society

RARS

Worldwide Friendship

May, 2001
Number 367



DOUG DOUG DOUG!
AD4UL Returns Every Year To Help With RARS*Fest*

Next RARS Meeting:
Tuesday, May 1st

- Grounding -

The Exciter

The ***Exciter*** is the monthly newsletter of the Raleigh Amateur Radio Society. It is available in both printed and electronic form. The printed version is mailed to members just before each club meeting. The electronic form, in Adobe Acrobat PDF format, is e-mailed about a week earlier.

We solicit both articles and advertising. The deadline for submissions is the 15th of the prior month. Contact the Editor.

The views contained in the Exciter are those of the individual authors, and are not necessarily the views of the Editor, or the Raleigh Amateur Radio Society.

The Raleigh Amateur Radio Society

The Raleigh Amateur Radio Society, Inc. (RARS) was founded in 1969 and continues to serve and support the Amateur Radio community in the greater Triangle area. In 1999, we incorporated a new RARS, and obtained 501(c)(3) Non-Profit tax status.

The objectives of the club are to promote worldwide friendship through Amateur Radio; to be of public service by providing radio communications in times of disaster, emergency, or civic need; to educate members in radio technique; and to provide training classes to assist in obtaining Amateur Radio licenses.

Anyone interested in Amateur Radio is eligible to apply for membership. Dues for regular licensed amateurs are $18.00 per year (from July 1 through June 30). Additional immediate family members pay $5.00 each per year. Dues for licensed amateurs older than 59 or younger than 16 are $12.00 per year. Dues for non-licensed Associate members are $9.00 per year.

Applications for membership may be obtained from the treasurer, or the RARS web site (www.rars.org).

Officers

President	**Tim Nicholson KF4RTX** **501-7746** **kf4rtx@arrl.net**
Vice-President	**Bob Breyer K1RCB** **848-7761** **breyer@ix.netcom.com**
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SPECIAL SERVICE CLUB

Info

Repeaters:

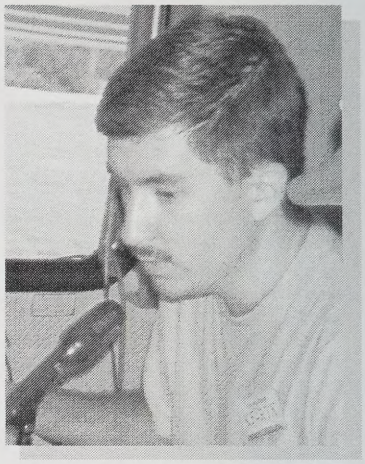
145.13
146.64
224.64
444.525 (88.5 PL)

Web Site:
http://www.rars.org

President's Corner

Tim Nicholson KF4RTX

President's Survey



I trust everyone had a wonderful time at RARSFest. It's hard to believe another one is in the books. Attendance looks to be down again this year, more so than last, but we probably sold more tables than we have in quite a while. I'm probably stealing some of Hank's thunder here, so I'll leave the hamfest report to him. I personally want to thank everyone who gave of his or her time and volunteered for a shift. Without you, we would not have had a hamfest.

On page 3 you will find a short questionnaire that I would appreciate you taking the time to fill out and returning to me. You can mail it to me directly (my address is in the corner of the form), or just drop it off at one of the meetings. You don't have to sign it or put your name on it. I just want to know about how we as a club are doing, and possibly some things we could do differently. This is your chance to voice your opinion.

Now it's time to start focusing on Field Day. We only have 1½ months before the event. This year, we are hoping to have two locations – one at the Carroll's farm where we usually meet, and one at the State Capital. This will hopefully give everyone a chance to get out to Field Day and participate.

And speaking of Field Day, I had volunteered to head up the 20-meter phone station, but it looks like I'm going to be hard-pressed to devote quality time to organizing it. If anyone would be interested in being the 20-meter phone band captain, please let me know. This group would be setting up at the Carroll's farm.

73,

Tim KF4RTX

Tune In The

RARS NEWS HOUR

- *Newsline*
- *ARRL Audio News*
- *R.A.I.N Report*

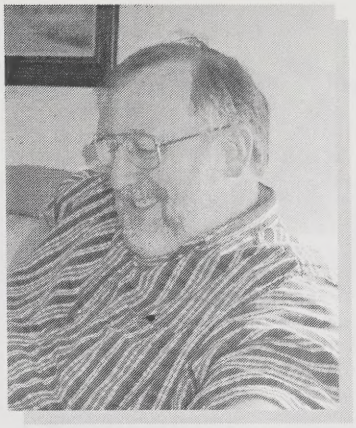
Sunday Nights following the RARS 8:00 Net on 146.64

SWL Field Day - May 12

The second annual Scanner and S.W.L. SIG Field Day Event is set for May 12th. The even will run from around 3pm until about 9pm. The location is to be announced, so stay tuned to the SWL net on 64 Monday night. All are welcome to bring receivers, antennas and accessories, or just come listen!

Sunday, April 8th

RARSFest 2001 RESULTS



Hank Montgomery - K4HM
RARSFest Chairman

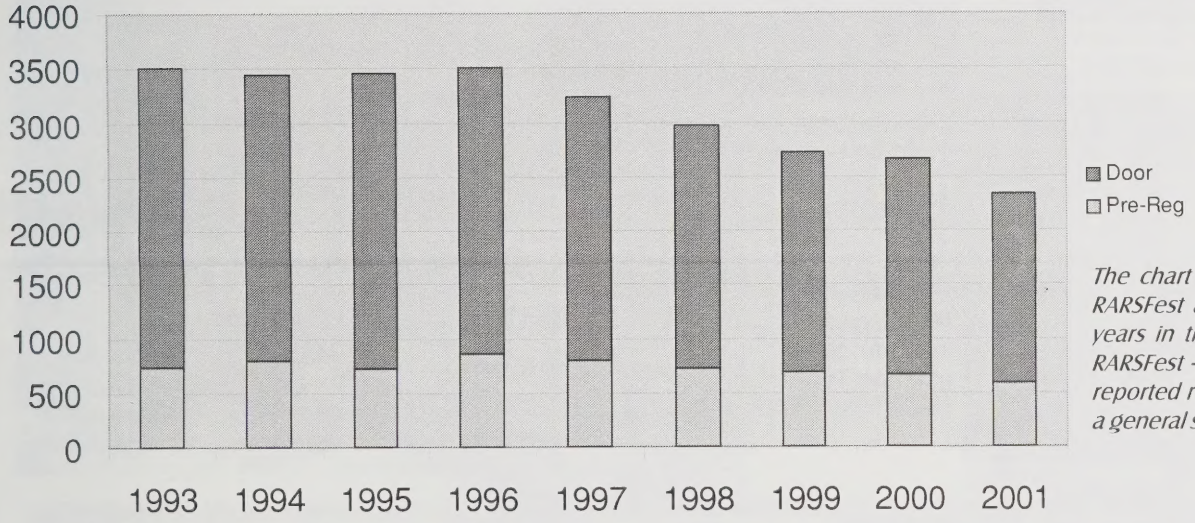
RARSfest 2001 has come and gone. This year saw an increase in flea market table sales, but a decrease in attendance continuing the trend of the last five years. Yet of the 2330 paid attendance, I am only aware of one complaint and it is being investigated. That comes out to about a 99.96% satisfaction level.

Many people pitched in to make the hamfest a success again this year. Some worked for months before the actual event to make preparations and get the wheels turning. Special thanks to the RARSfest Chairmen who made it all come together.

Next year's fest will be on April 14th. Preparations will start in just a few weeks and the RARSfest Committee will start meeting this fall. I urge all RARS members to consider participating on the committee next year.

RARSfest Paid Attendance 1993 - 2001

RARSFest pictures on page 4



The chart shows the steady drop in RARSFest attendance since the peak years in the early 90's. It's not just RARSFest - hamfests nationwide have reported reduced business, reflecting a general slowdown in Amateur Radio.

President's Survey

What do you like most about RARS? _____

What do you like least about RARS? _____

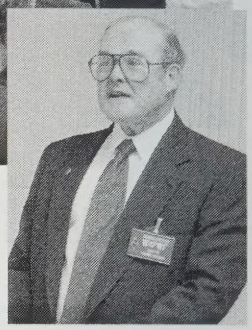
If you could change one thing about RARS, what would it be? _____

Mail to:
Timothy Nicholson, KF4RTX
4817 Loganshire Ln.
Raleigh, NC 27616

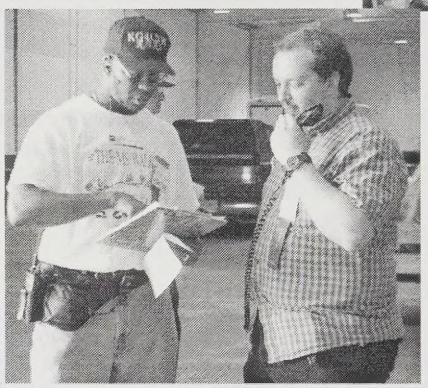
fotos from the RARSFest

W4BRB, W4KGL, W4IK and AD4UL with the master map at the Flea Market door

K4HF is the backbone of the RARS*Fest!*

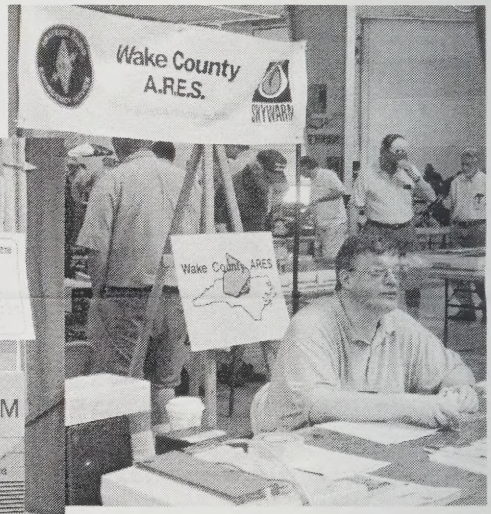


ARRL VP N4MM, above, and Roanoke Division Director W4PWF address ARRL forums.

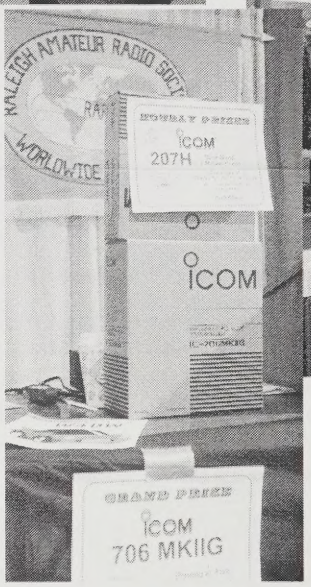


KG4CXW and K4LNX help with setup, above. PRIZES!, right.

N4MQU mans the Wake ARES booth, below.

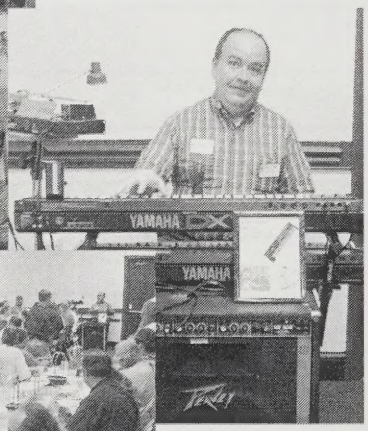


KC4UQN and N4SSU guide lost hams to the gate from Talk-In



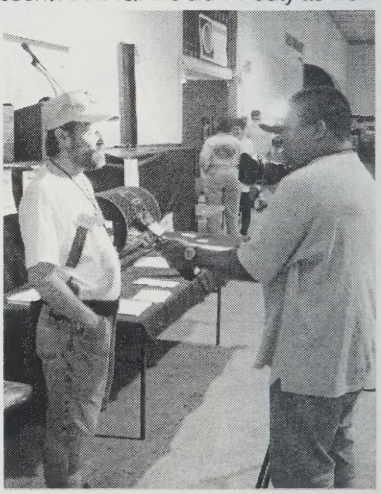
ON THE COVER: Doug AD4UL left Raleigh, but not RARS, when he retired a few years ago. He returns to help direct Setup at the hamfest every year. *Dougie - we miss you!*

KE4DRI helps KF4RTX fortify himself for his MC duties at the Social. The usual large crowd chows down.



Larry Carringer set the mood

KF4JKQ took over the stage from an absent KN4AQ. He did TV duty as well.



photos by Thomas Babb KF4JKQ

RARS Winter Class Graduates Six New Hams!

Congratulations and welcome to six new ham radio operators, graduates of the winter session of the RARS Tech license class. The new hams are:

Larry Wiandt KG4MVZ

Ken Dietel KG4MVV

Donald Stanfield KG4MVY

Michael Frost KG4MVW

Jette Jensen KG4MVX

Chul Choi KG4MVU

A bunch more new hams passed exams at the RARS*Fest* - let's give them all a warm welcome.

While class was still in session, Thomas Babb KF4JKQ arranged for **The Cary News** to send a reporter (instructors AC4ZO and KN4AQ are Cary residents). The result was this excellent story.

The Cary News

THURSDAY, MARCH 29, 2001

So you want to be a Ham, huh?

Amateur radio operators provide a beneficial service in times of need

BY MEGAN JONES
STAFF WRITER

Jeff Wittich is a real ham.

The Cary resident is in good company Mondays and Thursdays, when he and Gary Pearce teach a class on how to become a licensed ham radio operator.

"Hams" are amateur radio operators who use two-way radio stations to contact people around town and around the world. They communicate with each other using voice, computers and Morse code to relay important information for police and public service organizations during emergencies and disasters. They also tune in just to have fun and shoot the breeze with people from all over the place.

But to use their radios legally, they first need to be licensed by the Federal Trade Commission, or FTC. That means passing a technical competency test, which is where Wittich (call sign AC4ZO) and Pearce (KN4AQ) come in.

They're members of the Raleigh Amateur Radio Society, on the Web at www.rars.org, and teach other radio buffs basic ham information like signal transmission and how they can put their services to work, during disasters and less drastic events.

'Hams that serve during times of disaster are instrumental.'

JEFF WITTICH
Local Ham operator

For example, hams are often on the front lines during community gatherings such as walk-a-thons, because they can convey information with less time and fewer go-betweens than someone using a cellular phone could.

The classes, held at the Nortel training center, also teach students how to set up their own stations at home.

You can take the test without having taken the class, but Wittich said he doesn't recommend it.

"Learning what the book teaches, just what it takes to pass the test is different from learning what you need to know," he said. "It's like taking the driving test. You can learn enough from a book to pass the test, and then drive home and have a terrible wreck (from a lack of hands-on knowledge). And this is a good way to meet other hams in the area.

STAFF PHOTO BY THOMAS BABB

Jeff Wittich, second from right, shows his students a hand-held amateur radio transmitter.

It's a very people-oriented hobby."

Though Wittich and Pearce usually have several people sign up for each six-week session, enrollment tends to swell after a natural disaster like Hurricane Floyd in 1999. That's because, well, it's exciting to be involved in the relief effort.

"Hams that serve during times of disaster are instrumental," Wittich said. "Whether it's a weather emergency or a man-made emergency, like the Oklahoma City bombing, hams step up when mass communication isn't reliable."

Wittich tries to keep his classes entertaining. A few weeks ago, he brought in laser beams and dry ice to show his students what makes radio waves work.

It's working for Ken Dietel, a computer consultant who enrolled at the advice of his friends. Wittich and Pearce have sold him on earning a call sign of his own.

"It's a neat way to keep in touch," Dietel said. "Also, I'm interested in helping out, because public service interests me."

For more information on enrolling in a future session, contact Gary Pearce at 380-9944 or kn4aq@arrl.net. More information on amateur radio in general is available from the American Radio Relay League, on the Web at www.arrl.org.

Contact Megan Jones at 460-2608 or mjones@nando.com

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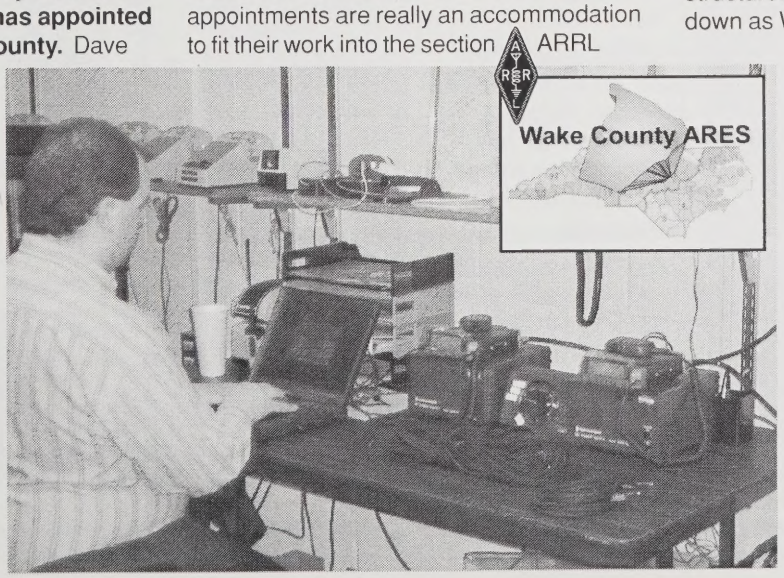
Acting EC's Appointed for Wake County, State EOC

ARRL NC Section Emergency Coordinator Dave Fleming KE4JHJ has appointed two Acting ECs for Wake County. Dave appointed Tom Brown N4TAB as Acting EC for Wake County, and John Guerriero KG4HDT as Acting EC for North Carolina Emergency Management (NCEM), essentially the EC for the State EOC.

The appointments were made in consultation with Tom Simpson N4UCO, at a meeting of Section ARRL leaders in Raleigh on April 7 at the State EOC. Tom is the Central Branch Assistant Section Emergency Coordinator (ASEC).

Both John and Tom point out that the dual appointments are really an accommodation to fit their work into the section ARRL structure. After Ron Ford KG4FJA stepped down as Wake EC earlier this year, John and Tom, who had been appointed as Assistant ECs, stepped in to pick up the organizational work, along with the other AECs. That was working OK, but what was missing was the ability to make additional appointments.



John and Tom wanted to share the responsibility of EC. They both have full-time jobs, and perhaps are a bit humble about

continued on page 9

Karl K4LNX programs two new Kenwood TM-V7As at the Wake County EOC. Story on page 9. photo by KG4HDT

Get Ready for RARS Field Day!

Mike Murphy WA4BPJ

What is field day?

It's a contest like no other. The idea behind field day is to test your ability to set up and operate a station competitively under non-ideal conditions. This means no commercial facilities like buildings or power. Stations operate on all bands from UHF through HF with the exception of the WARC bands (30, 17 and 12 meters) and on all modes, phone, cw and digital. The spirit of field day combines a weekend of camping with intense radio operating. Some consider field day the premier operating event of the year - the most fun you can have without breaking the law!

Who sponsors field day?

Field day is organized and sponsored by the American Radio Relay League, the national membership association for Amateur Radio operators. (**www.arrl.org**).

When is field day, and how long does it last?

Field day is always the fourth full weekend in June. This year it's Saturday June 23rd and Sunday June 24th. The operating starts on Saturday at 1800 UTC for everyone (2PM EDT) and runs 24 hours. The rules allow stations 24 hours before the event to begin setting up so the fun starts on Friday 2PM EDT.

How are points made?

The main goal is to make as many contacts as possible. So that an individual isn't up against a large club operation, there are different entry categories. There are categories or classes for clubs, individuals, mobile operation and even operating at home. No mater how you want to participate, there's a category for you. The rules favor HF operating but there is plenty of activity on the VHF and UHF bands.

Contacts through repeaters are not allowed.

Points are awarded based on the number of contacts, the mode of operation and power level. Quality operating skills with emphasis on persistence and patience are the keys to success. For a successful contact, stations exchange their operating class and ARRL section. See the ARRL rules (**www.arrl.org/contests/announcements/fd**) for full details.

What are bonus points?

Besides making points on contacts, participants can earn additional points in a variety of bonus categories. This year 1200 points plus 100 points per transmitter on emergency power are possible. A 5 transmitter operation, if it took advantage of all the possible bonus categories, could earn 1700 bonus points.

The ARRL has placed a strong emphasis on publicity by providing an opportunity to earn up to 400 of the bonus points in 4 different publicity oriented categories. There are also bonus points for satellite contacts, powering a station from unconventional power sources (like wind or solar power), traffic handling and more.

Where is field day?

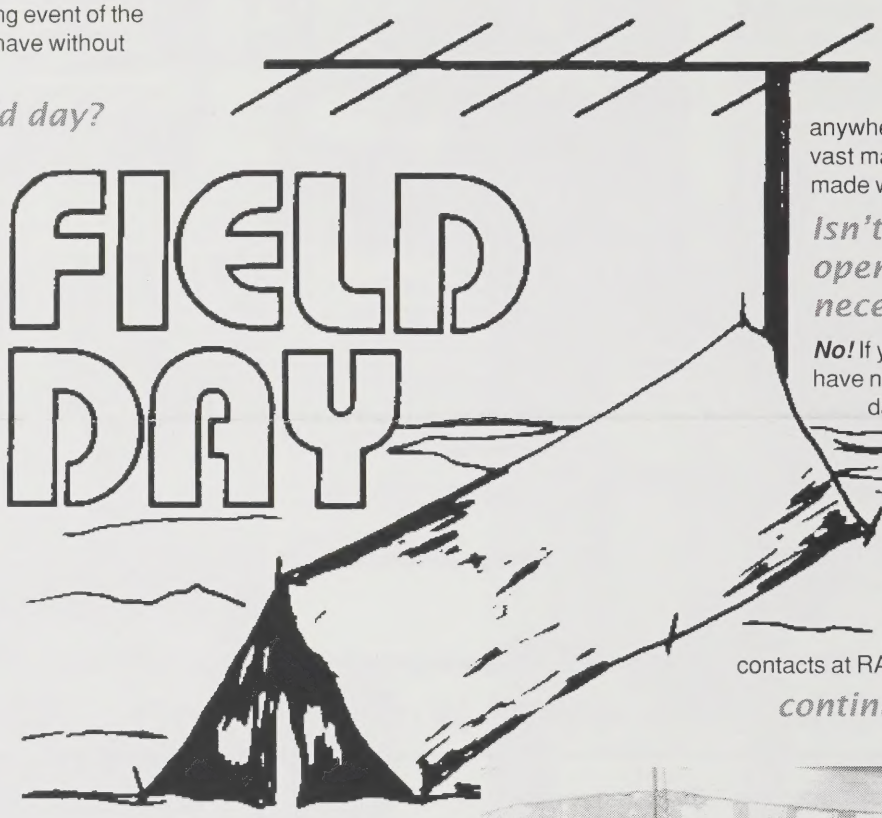
Most groups conduct their operations in the classic tradition in the field. Many operators, however, operate from their homes or vehicles. RARS will once again conduct operations from the Carroll site, and possibly at a second more public location at the grounds of the State Capitol.

How popular is it?

Field day is one of the most popular contests, attracting many thousands of operators. The bands are very crowded on field day weekend!

Who participates?

All US and Canadian hams can compete for points. Contacts can be made with any station anywhere in the world but the vast majority of contacts are made within the US and Canada.



Isn't a lot of operating experience necessary?

No! If you're a new ham and have never operated on HF, field day is a wonderful opportunity to get some mic or key time. Many new hams have had their first taste of field day at a RARS operation. Even members of the general public have made contacts at RARS field day operations.

continued on next page

Mike WA4BPJ, and daughter Katie KE4DRL, operate the 40 meter SSB station at RARS 2000 Field Day

Field Day
continued from previous page

What is RARS' involvement with field day?

RARS has a tradition of going out for field day in a big way. On at least 3 occasions in recent years our club has taken top honors in its class and on at least one occasion placed in the top ten for total points regardless of class.

What is perhaps most remarkable is that while we have been very competitive, many new, inexperienced hams have participated with us for their first field day. And they don't just sit and watch - we encourage everyone to spend some time on the air.

We have operated at a variety of sites including Umstead State Park near RDU and most recently on the property of Jim and Beth Carroll near Apex. RARS has also fielded simultaneous operations in past years.

This is pure Field Day - a screen tent full of ham radio equipment, set up in an open field. If you look carefully, you'll see Sharon Murphy KD4ACK dozing.... er, supervising, on the right.

How does RARS organize its field day operations?

RARS field day activities are guided by a **field day chairman** and **band captains**. The chairman has overall responsibility for securing a site, Port-a-John facilities, band captain recruitment and, with the band captains, the layout of the site. In its budget RARS allocates about $400 each year for field day expenses. This money is used to reimburse operators for the cost of generator gasoline, to rent the Port-a-Johns, to pay any fees associated with the site (there were such expenses when we operated from Umstead Park) and to pay for food and refreshments when someone volunteers to organize a Saturday evening meal for all the participants.

What are band captains and what do they do?

A band captain is the person who recruits a team of operators and helpers and with them, plans and organizes the operation of one or more field day stations. A band captain is responsible for making sure the station is properly equipped and manned, that it is operated according to the field day rules, that the log is maintained and that people are recruited to help set up, operate and take down the station and antennas.

The principle job of the band captain is to organize. You don't need to have years of ham or field day experience, but sometime in your ham career you should have a couple of field days as an active participant in a group operation. If you can organize, recruit and delegate and are willing to learn, you have what it takes. Successful band captains recruit and delegate - they don't do it alone and they certainly don't own all the equipment.

How do I participate?

If you would like to operate, help set up or take down a station, contact the band captain of your choice. If you are interested in serving as a band captain or working for any of the bonus points, contact the chairman. Don't misunderstand, field day participation is *not* by invitation only! It's just helpful to the organizers for planning purposes to know how many folks to expect for different activities. The goal is to involve as many RARS members as possible.

Where can I get more information?

The ARRL field day link: **www.arrl.org/contests/announcements/fd** is the place to go for a copy of the rules and general field day information. Of course, for RARS it's the field day link at **www.rars.org**, and by all means contact the chairman or any of the band captains for help with your questions.

What's the cure for field day fever?

There's only one cure. ***I'll see you at field day!***

Hams help MS Walks close quickly as thunderstorms sweep area

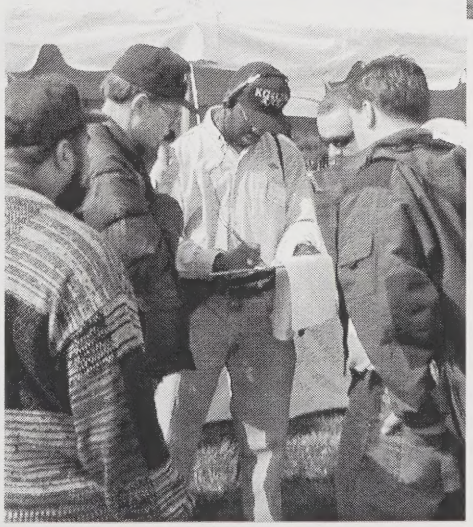
RARS members and area hams had a busy weekend on March 31/April 1, with four MS Society walks spread between Durham, Chapel Hill, Cary and Raleigh on Saturday and Sunday.

The Saturday walks in Durham (RTP) and Cary went off without a hitch. But on Sunday, with hundreds of walkers still out on the courses, the National Weather Service suddenly posted severe thunderstorm warnings due to storms that developed rapidly right on top of the Triangle.

SKYWARN activated, and the walk coordinators were given up-to-the-second reports on the storm progress. Both the Chapel Hill and Raleigh walks were closed quickly, and SAGS and busses rounded up walkers (some of whom didn't understand the problem, and wanted to keep walking).

Ken KD4JMK covers the registration area at Broughton High School in Raleigh, before the storms hit

2001 MS WALK



Hams gather around Eric KG4CXW for assignments at the Durham walk at Glaxo on Saturday. Photo by KG4CXY

What is the Smith Chart Society?

Frank Lynch W4FAL

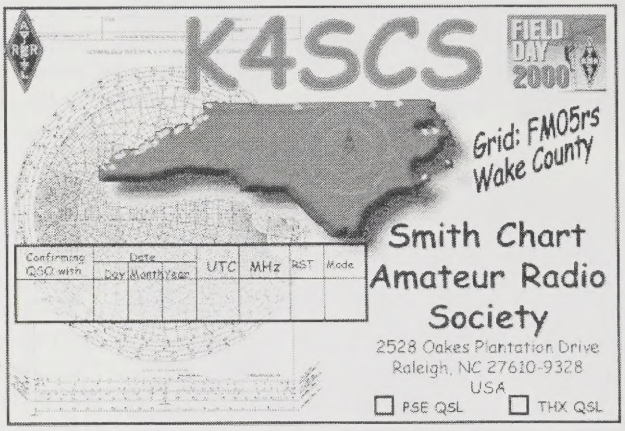
Last month, we mentioned that the Smith Chart Society had coordinated the old PCRN backbone frequency of 442.025 MHz, and was planning a new, wide-coverage repeater for the Triangle area. But what is the Smith Chart Society? And what is a Smith Chart? W4FAL provides the answers:

The Smith Chart Amateur Radio Society is a group of amateur radio operators dedicated to the preservation, enrichment, and implementation of various technical skills related to amateur radio.

We're not a club in the traditional definition in that we don't have regular meetings, etc. Our primary focus is on various technical topics and skills, community service, and education. This doesn't just include a lot of electrical engineering subjects as they relate to amateur radio, but also includes things like tower design and erection, thermal design issues, and other non-electrical subjects. If you have questions, there's someone who can likely answer it or find you an answer.

The Smith Chart Amateur Radio Society was founded in 1999 by Frank Lynch W4FAL. The name of the organization honors Phillip H. Smith, a Bell Labs Engineer who invented what has come to be known as the Smith Chart. The Smith Chart is an RF engineering tool that has stood the test of time and still continues to be used today by RF engineers to solve a variety of impedance matching, transmission line, and RF amplifier design problems.

At present (March 2001) we have 26 members. We also have some distinguished honorary members, including Kyle Leshko, a young man with cerebral palsy who want's to be a ham, and Arden Quesinberry, a retired engineer who spent 30+ years at Westinghouse and was the division director of advanced radar transmitter design.



Arden also owns the piece of property where we have field day, is my uncle, and is probably largely responsible for me deciding to make electrical engineering my career.

Ruffin Lynch (also my uncle) was made an honorary member last year during Field Day after he provided the group with some delicious homemade fried apple pies. (I'm not sure if it's the excellent operating location or some more of those pies that everyone wants to go back for this year.

From our bylaws: *It shall be our purpose to further the exchange of information and cooperation between members, to promote radio knowledge, fraternalism and individual operating efficiency, and to so conduct club programs and activities as to advance the general interest and welfare of Amateur Radio as well as public service within the community.*

SCS at the United Cerebral Palsy Starfest 2001 Telethon. From left: Kyle Leshko, Bob Lukaszewski K4HA, Frank Lynch W4FAL, Chuck Wright K4NYS, and Mark Roberts, WRAL-TV Host.

SCS members build a tower for K4PB

We've been involved in a number of community service projects, including the "Kyle Leshko Project", helping and mentoring a young man with cerebral palsy who has a strong interest in amateur radio; being a VIP Fund-raiser for the United Cerebral Palsy's Starfest 2001 on WRAL-TV, for which our group raised $800; and participation in several contests throughout the year, especially VHF and UHF contests, and Field Day in the Blue Ridge Mountains near Meadows of Dan, VA (on a large hill overlooking the area where I grew up); an annual North Carolina Style "Pig Pickin" in May of each year; mentoring students at NCSU with senior design projects in areas of wireless and RF communications; support of educational projects such as elementary and middle school classroom demonstrations of amateur radio; Boy Scout Project support; and Amateur Radio Classes.

A large percentage of out members are also VE's and/or serve some role in the ARRL field organization, such as Technical Coordinators, Technical Specialists, VE, and NTS. Some of our members provide "services" to the local ham community such as tower rigging, repeater systems, packet services such as the DX cluster, and technical advice for projects.

Membership is by nomination only. We're a small, focused group with each member having specific technical interests. We're not a "club" in the normal sense, we're more of a society of individuals with strong technical interests.

For more information on the Smith Chart Society, visit their web page:

www.qsl.net/w4fal/smithchart

Acting ECs
continued from page 6

seeking the top job. Tom Simpson suggested a dual-EC arrangement.

Tom Brown N4TAB said they agreed in order to keep things moving. But they don't plan any strict division of responsibility. They intend to keep working together with a lot of overlap between the State and County operations.

New Radios at County EOC

A pair of new Kenwood TM-V7A's have been installed at the Wake County EOC. John KG4HDT and Karl K4LNX installed the radios and cloned the frequencies from the V7A at the State EOC so all radios would be the same. This solves the problem we had at last summer's Shearon-Harris drill, when we found the EOC's old radios lacked CTCSS program capability, so the EOC was unable to use the main ARES repeater. Ron KG4FJA, our previous EC, arranged for the County to purchase the new radios.

The new radios allow operation not only on county UHF repeaters, but great flexibility operating VHF repeaters, since each can monitor two VHF repeaters simultaneously (if the operator can keep up). Tom N4TAB is building speaker/headphone switchboxes similar to the one that Jeff AC4ZO built for the State EOC.

For the time being, the antennas (one vertical and one beam) on the building roof are 2 meter antennas. We will look into putting up dual-band antennas. The loss from the long coax runs makes for reasonable SWR on UHF, though, and what signal is left was enough to hit area UHF repeaters in John's first test. On VHF, the radios were able to hit distant repeaters well.

Wake ARES is planning training for operators at the Wake EOC in the near future.

CCFA Run for Research June 2nd

CCFA
Crohn's & Colitis Foundation of America, Inc.

The last event before the summer heat begins... this run begins at Glaxo in RTP. It's the only one that lets you sleep in, as it starts at 5 pm. Contact Joe WA2UZO: **wa2uzo@arrl.net**

Details on all events on the web at: www rars.org/public-service

Making a Difference

The story of RARS members who lead, volunteer, participate, in their own words

Shadowing at the Raleigh Marathon

Liz Stanley KF4UQZ

I was shadowing Kelly Andrews, the assistant director of the Raleigh Marathon (Kelly is also KD4EWG).

We first went out and delivered some chairs to a couple of rest stops. Then we went to the starting line and saw the beginning of both races.

We came back to the civic center and picked up the computer results for the 5K. Kelly gave out those awards (they were on what looked like green marble).

I found myself standing next to the winner of first place. He was a fairly tall black man. I heard him say later that he did not do quite as well as he could have.

Next, we went to the finish line and saw the first two gentlemen finish the 26.2 mile run. Then we drove out and delivered water along Hammond Road, and we went back inside to give away more awards.

I then found myself standing in front of the first woman who finished. She had received a very tall trophy and was telling someone she did not know she would get it. She started jumping up and down with glee.

I returned to the amateur home base and after a while I talked to the gentlemen searching for his wife and child with the purple baby stroller. Once we had more information, Byron K4NGJ went off and came back with her within ten minutes and they were reunited. *[This was a long story observed by many hams. AC4ZO reports that the man missed his connection with his wife at a rest stop. She was SAGGED in, and they were both wandering around the convention center for quite a while before Byron reunited them - Ed.]*

Liz KF4UQZ at the starting line for the Raleigh Marathon

After a while a lady came running over who needed EMS for her mother who was very faint. I followed them back and made sure the EMS located them. They took her vitals and looked after her. She looked to be about 70 years old.

The entire event just left all of us with a euphoric feeling, and we are still wound up three days later.

Oncore! Oncore! Oncore!

Do you have a story from a public service or ARES activity? Share it with your club by sending it to the Exciter Editor!

Sign Man Offers New Style RARS Badge

Gary

KN4AQ

The Sign Man of Baton Rouge has created a new style badge for RARS members, using our "fancy" logo. That's right, RARS is big enough to have two logos - one created in the early days of the club (and refined by Woody KJ4SO), and a modernized version, created by Chris Rucci, a graphic artist who worked with KN4AQ.

The color logo badge is a little more expensive. It should be available soon on The Sign Man's web page:

www.thesignman.com/clubs/rars.html

RARS badges are also available at hamfests and by mail from:

The Cap 'N' Badge Man
Dale WA4EZU
PO Box 652
Fairforest, SC
(803) 576-8617
WA4EZU@aol.com

Minutes

Club Meeting, April 3rd, 2001

The regular meeting of the Raleigh Amateur Radio Society was held on March 3, 2001 at the Forest Hills Baptist Church on Clark Avenue.

The meeting was called to order at 7:32p by Vice President Bob Brier, K1RCB who welcomed 65 members and 2 guests.

Greg, KE4PAX gave the treasurer's report. He said that our membership stands at 313.

Denyse, KG4CXY announced the Triangle Women's Net which meets on 147.195 on Wednesday evenings at 9:00p.

Lynn, KO4QH announced upcoming test sessions on Thursday, April 5 at 7:30p at the Nortel Networks Technical Education Center. Also, testing will be offered at the RARSfest on Sunday, April 8.

continued on next page

NC Senate Bill 838 Would Eliminate Ham License Plate Fee

State Senator Robert A. Rucho (R, Mecklenberg County) has introduced a bill that would eliminate the $10 fee for Amateur Radio license plates. That would put Amateur Radio operators on par with Active Members of the National Guard , 100% Disabled Veterans, Ex–Prisoners of War, Legion of Valor and Purple Heart Recipients, Silver Star Recipients .

The bill has been referred to the committee on Finance. It's received mixed reviews from hams. Some say we deserve it, some say we should pay the extra $10 for the plate, but not every year, and some say it's a bad PR move when the state is facing a budget crunch.

Tech/Trader Net
8:30 Saturday on 64
Two Nets In One!

Join Us At The RARS Dinner

Every 4th Tuesday, 6:30 pm at Fat Daddy's on Glenwood Ave.

Uncle Joe Closing His Shack

Uncle Joe WB5ZPQ

Uncle Joe's Ham Shack is closing shop for now. I'm selling most of my stock at cost or below...

Its not a give-a-way.. I know I'm soft hearted, but I do have to get something from the liquidation, so give me a little band width please!

I'm selling lots of connectors, and most of the stuff I have in my bins. I have wire, some coax but not that much, and a lot of misc. stuff... also some Comtelco Antennas.

Call me at 779-5659 and come on by and check it out.

Thanks guys, and wish you all the best..

I miss you all.. Doing some 10, both AM and SSB.

Minutes continued from previous page

At this point, Bob made a plea for help at the hamfest, and asked members to volunteer appropriately. Sign-up sheets were circulated.

At 7:39p Bob introduced the program for the evening: RARS*Fest*. The speaker was Hank Montgomery, K4HM, the RARSfest Chairman.

After the Program, Bob introduced Gary, KN4AQ who said a few words about an upcoming public service event.

Also, Gary announced the new repeater update initiative, and said a few words about what is going on.

President Tim Nicholson, KF4RTX, who by this time had arrived, took the podium to award the door prizes, which were awarded to: KD4ZVW, K4SAN, NA4G, KF4NIR, and KG4FJA.

The meeting adjourned at 8:40p.

Jeff Wittich AC4ZO, Secretary

Board Meeting, March 20th, 2001

The monthly Board meeting of the Raleigh Amateur Radio Society was held at the Forest Hills Baptist Church on March 20. The meeting was called to order by President Tim Nicholson KF4RTX at 7:41p. Members present at that time were: KN4AQ, KG4CXR, K4HF, K4HM, AB4OZ, KE4PAX, K1RCB, KF4RTX, N4YRD, and AC4ZO. The total attendance was 14.

On motion by K4HF, seconded by KN4AQ, the minutes of the February meeting were approved. KE4PAX gave the Treasurer's report. He said that our membership stands at 313.

In the Vice President's report, K1RCB said that the ice cream consumption at the March meeting was less than anticipated. Also the topic for the April meeting will be grounding.

Committee Reports:

KN4AQ reported on the FM committee. He has been in correspondence with K4ITL concerning our impending order, but another possibility has been illuminated with some Kenwood equipment. The issue is being worked. There has been no progress on the repair of the 444.525 repeater. The 220 repeater is back on the air.

KN4AQ reported for the Education Department, and said that we now have 3.5 weeks of the class behind us. All is going well, and there are 6 students.

KN4AQ reported on the Exciter. He said that this is a 5 Tuesday month ***[he was wrong - Ed.]***, so it's not too late for submissions this month. And we still need a new Exciter Editor.

KG4CXR said a few words about a few Public Service events coming up. She said that recruiting has been slow for a Chapel Hill event, but the Cary event is moving along smoothly. KN4AQ reported on planning for the Tour de Cure. He said the route is in good shape, and he expects good participation from the radio clubs down east.

KG4CXR said a few words about Membership Services. She is working well with KE4PAX, and the cards are being issued faster and more efficiently than ever before.

K4HM reported on the Hamfest committee. The Hamfest is scheduled for April 8. The prizes have been received, but recruiting is still slow.

WA4BPJ announced the Field Day operation for 2001. He said we have 5 stations planned so far and planning is under way.

Old Business:

The issue of the storage unit was brought up. The insurance on the facility was discussed, but the discussion turned to insuring other RARS equipment. It was decided that we don't need to insure the facility immediately, so we'll proceed with the procurement of the facility.

New Business:

It was brought to the attention of the Board that W4BRB is willing to accept the position of "Acting Repeater Chairman" for the foreseeable future. On motion by KN4AQ, seconded by K4HF, a motion was passed making such appointment.

KN4AQ handled the topic of Field Day. He described what the discussion on other forums has been like, and gave his view. We believe at this point that there may be two operations this year, one from N4CAE, and one from the State Capitol grounds. A motion was made by KN4AQ that RARS investigate, and apply for permission to operate a station from the State Capitol. The motion was seconded by K4HM and was carried.

Continuing the Field Day discussion, a motion was made by K4HF, seconded by AB4OZ that we empower WA4BPJ to spend from the Field Day line item to cover some of the Field Day expenses.

KE4PAX brought up an issue of a small tax penalty that we are being assessed for late filing. Greg was asking for guidance from the Board. After discussion, a resolution was reached.

KE4PAX also brought to the Board a query from a member asking for a letter documenting our purpose. She is trying to find the proper way to acquire donations for the Club. The issue was disposed of by the Secretary accepting the action.

AB4OZ had an issue brought to him from a member. The item was concerning training members on how to filter messages in e-mail programs. And from another member, a complaint was received concerning the Roster, and the Members Only web page. After other items were discussed, a motion was made by KN4AQ, seconded by K4HM that we post the Exciter on the open part of the web page once they are 4 months old. A short discussion took place, and the motion passed.

Comments and Announcements:

K4HF put forth the idea of publicizing that it is up to each member to get any roster update information to the Treasurer.

K4HM brought up the issue of the RARS logo. A discussion concerning the logo took place, and we reaffirmed our policy on maintaining control of the logo. Also, Hank announced that he has tickets and flyers for the hamfest with him.

KN4AQ commented that next month (April Board meeting) begins the budget talks, and asked Board members to be prepared.

KG4CXR reported that the Triangle Women's Net is going strong, and they have moved to 147.195 (PL 88.5) and are enjoying the extended coverage. Then, a copy of the April QST featuring a nice picture and article about Denyse was passed around.

With the business complete, on motion by AC4ZO, the meeting adjourned at 9:38p.

Respectfully submitted,

Jeff Wittich AC4ZO, Secretary

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May, 2001

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Snapshots

Oh, what a night!

Tune In The World Night gives RARS members the chance to show off before the class. Oh, and I suppose it gives the class members a chance to see a bunch of ham equipment close up, too. Above, Neal N4HAF and Mike WA4BPJ (both seated) demonstrate HF, cw and PSK 31 to Ken Dietel (now KG4MVV), Chul Choi (now KG4MVU) and Chul's son. Right, Max KO4TV shows his impressive DX QSL collection - all worked while *mobile*.

Hamfest Calendar

May 27:	**Dur-HamFest, Durham**
June 9:	Winston-Salem, Franklin VA
July 21:	**Cary Swapfest**
July 28:	Western Carolina Hamfest
August 11:	Fayetteville
Sept 1:	Shelby

Courtesy of the SERA *Repeater Journal*